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5 February 1987
OCA 87-0510

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: New Member Briefing on Nicaragua

1. On 5 February at 1400 in 210 CHOB, the White House sponsored a briefing for new members of the House dealing with Nicaragua and prospects for the Contras. Dave Gries, D/OCA, as well as [redacted] attended from OCA. [redacted] DD/DI/ALA and Allen Fiers C/CATF/LA were the presenters. Lyn Withey from the White House also attended.

2. Twelve members of the House attended the hour and a half briefing and expressed a good deal of support for the Administration's efforts in Nicaragua. The attendees included:

Elton Gallegly (R., CA)
David Skaggs (R., CO)
Patricia Saiki (R., HI)
J. Dennis Hastert (R., IL)
Jack Buechner (R., MO)
David E. Price (D., NC)
Martin Lancaster (D., NC)
Cass Ballenger (R., NC)
Donald E. Lukens (R., OH)
Curt Weldon (R., PA)

3. [redacted] led off the discussion with a review of recent political developments in Nicaragua, suggesting that indications that the regime might be willing to tolerate political pluralism were part of a larger attempt to influence congressional opinion in this country. Allen Fiers then provided a rundown of Sandinista activities, which were said to follow Marxist/Leninist model of revolution. Both speakers sought to impress upon the new members the sensitivity of much of the material being presented. A number of members asked for packets of unclassified material they could refer to, which White House liason promised to provide. Mr. Luckens, in particular, voiced his support for the administration's policies.

House Affairs
Office of Congressional Affairs

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